IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method to produce a perforated web material, the method comprising the steps of: ~~wherein the~~

providing a first roller and a second roller, said first roller and said second roller defining a nip;

preheating a web material to form a preheated web material, said web material being preheated prior to contacting one of said first roller and said second roller, said preheated web material having a preheated temperature, said preheated temperature being greater than an ambient temperature;

feeding said preheated web material ~~is fed~~ through [[a]] said nip; ~~between a~~

rotating said first roller and [[a]] said second roller rotating in opposite directions and ~~pressed~~ pressing said first roller against ~~each other~~ said second roller during said feeding of said preheated web material, [[the]] said first roller being provided with protuberances for perforation~~, **characterized in that** the web material is preheated before being fed into said nip, and the web is fed into the nip in a preheated condition at a temperature higher than the ambient temperature~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one of said first and second roller is heated.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein said first roller and said second roller rotate with a different peripheral speed to each other.

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first roller rotates at a higher peripheral speed than said second roller.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said web material is a nonwoven fabric.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized by:~~ wherein said web material comprises[[•]] ~~producing~~ at least a web of ~~fibres~~ fibers, said web of fibers being bonded[[;]] [[•]] ~~bonding said fibres~~ to form a nonwoven fabric, said preheating including preheating said nonwoven fabric, said nonwoven fabric being fed[[;]] [[•]] ~~feeding the preheated nonwoven fabric~~ into said nip.

7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said web is produced and bonded in series upstream of said nip.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized by the phases of:~~ wherein said web material includes [[•]] ~~producing~~ at least a web of unbonded ~~fibres~~ fibers, said preheating of said web material comprising[[:]] [[•]] feeding said web of unbonded

~~fibres~~ fibers through at least [[a]] one heating and bonding station to bond said ~~fibres~~ fibers and form a nonwoven fabric, said[[;]] [[•]] ~~feeding the~~ nonwoven fabric ~~preheated in said at least a heating and bonding station~~ being fed into said nip.

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein heating and bonding are performed using an air-through system.

10. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the nonwoven fabric is fed into said nip with an input speed equal to or lower than the peripheral speed of the first roller.

11. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said second roller is rotated at a peripheral speed lower than or equal to the peripheral speed of said first roller.

12. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the feed speed of the nonwoven fabric into said nip is between 90% and 100% of the peripheral speed of the first roller.

13. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the feed speed of the nonwoven fabric into said nip is between 90% and 110% of

the peripheral speed of the second roller.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the peripheral speed of the second roller is between 50% and 100% of the peripheral speed of the first roller.

15 - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein two or more web of fibres are coupled and joined together.

20. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized by: forming~~ wherein said web material comprises at least a first web of unbonded fibers and a second web of unbonded fibers, said first web of unbonded fibers and said second web of unbonded fibers being joined ~~fibres; joining said first and said second web together and consolidating said fibres~~ in [[said]] a heating station.

21. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 19, ~~characterized by: • forming~~ wherein said web material comprises at least a first web of unbonded fibers and a second web of unbonded fibers, ~~fibres; feeding~~ said first web of unbonded fibers and said second web of unbonded ~~fibres~~ being fed to one or [[two]] more heating and bonding stations

for preheating and separately bonding the ~~fibres~~ fibers of the first and of the second web to form two nonwoven fabrics,[[;]] [[•]] ~~feeding~~ said two preheated nonwoven fabrics being fed into said nip[[;]] [[•]] such that said two preheated nonwoven fabrics are perforated and joined together ~~perforating and joining together said two nonwoven fabrics~~ in said nip.

22. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said web material comprises bicomponent fibres.

23. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a plastic film is combined with said nonwoven fabric or with [[said]] a web of unconsolidated fibres.

24. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said web material comprises at least a plastic film.

25 - 34. (Canceled)

35. (New) A method to produce a perforated web material, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first roller and a second roller, said first roller and said second roller defining a nip;

preheating a web material to form a preheated web material, said web material being preheated prior to contacting one of said first roller and said second roller, said preheated web material having a preheated temperature, said preheated temperature being greater than an ambient temperature;

feeding said preheated web material through said nip;

pressing said first roller against said second roller during said feeding of said preheated web material, said first roller rotating in a first roller direction, said second roller rotating in a direction opposite said first roller direction, said first roller comprising a plurality of projections;

heating at least one of said first roller and second roller; and

perforating said preheated web material via said first roller and second roller to form a perforated web material.

36. (New) A method to produce a perforated web material, the method comprising the steps of:

providing at least one heating and bonding station;

producing at least a web of unbonded fibers;

feeding said web of unbonded fibers through said at least one heating and bonding station such that said fibers are bonded to form a preheated nonwoven fabric, said preheated nonwoven fabric having a preheated temperature, said preheated temperature being greater than an ambient temperature;

providing a first roller and a second roller, said first roller and said second roller defining a nip;

feeding said nonwoven fabric into said nip, said first roller and said second roller being located at a spaced location from said heating and bonding station; and

pressing said first roller against said second roller during feeding of said nonwoven fabric to form a perforated nonwoven fabric, said first roller rotating in a first roller direction, said second roller rotating in a direction opposite said first roller direction, said first roller comprising one or more projections.